



VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE
IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 22, beginning at line 29, please replace the paragraph as follows:

Additional design details regarding the type of vessel which is suitable for use as part of the present invention are disclosed in the copending patent application, Serial No. [] 09/585,296, filed on June 1, 2000, by inventors Norville, Lombard, and assigned attorney docket number 9105-4. This co-pending patent application is hereby expressly incorporated by reference for its entire disclosure. This incorporated patent application discloses various vessel designs as well as various slurry billet discharge methods and apparatus, all of which are incorporated by reference and are considered to be part of the present invention.

On page 24, please replace the third full paragraph as follows:

Additional design details regarding the type of thermal jacket which is suitable for use as part of the present invention are disclosed in the copending patent application Serial No. [] 9/584,859, filed on June 1, 2000, by inventors Lombard and Wang and assigned attorney docket number 9105-5. This copending patent application is hereby expressly incorporated by reference for its entire disclosure.

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On page 30, please replace the second full paragraph as follows:

Additional design details regarding the types of stators which are suitable for the present invention, the arrangement of these stators, whether rotary, linear, or both, and the alloy flow patterns which correspond to each stator arrangement according to the present invention are disclosed in the copending patent application Serial No. [] 09/585,060, filed on June 1, 2000, by inventors Lu, Wang, and Norville, and assigned attorney docket number 9105-6. This copending patent application is hereby expressly incorporated by reference for its entire disclosure.

On page 33, please replace the third full paragraph as follows:

The present invention has been described in the context of preparing a volume of slurry for a shot sleeve. The column of slurry has been put in the context of small, medium, and large amounts with a corresponding weight range. It has also envisioned that a suitable slurry composition can be created in a somewhat continuous manner by way of an integrated slurry maker. The design details regarding this type of apparatus are disclosed in the copending patent application, Serial No. [] 09/585,502, filed June 1, 2000, by inventors Norville, Wang, and Lombard, and assigned docket number 9105-7.

REMARKS

The Response to Office Action dated March 29, 2002 (mailed March 20, 2002) is now believed to be in compliance. No fees are believed to be necessary; however, please charge any fees which are required to Deposit Account No. 23-3030.

Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for pending claims 1-19, 24-26, and 31-38. The undersigned welcomes a telephonic interview with the Examiner, if the Examiner believes that such an interview would facilitate review of this Amendment Response.

Respectfully submitted,

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